As an Advanced Class Amateur Radio Operator (Callsign=K6EFA), I am writing to oppose the use of power lines for broadband data communications. These lines will inevitably radiate (it is a LAW of physics and not subject to regulatory control!) and cause great interference to other equally important radio frequency communications that are already licensed primary users of the frequencies in question. As is well-known, defective or dirty insulators on such power lines can already cause broad spectrum interference simply by integral harmonics of the 60 Hertz power line frequency. Putting discrete or spread spectrum data signals on such lines will only exacerbate the problem.

Local wireless access is already supported by 802.11 devices. The backhaul to support this access doesn't need to be wireless and, in fact, should be tranported over fiber optics. Putting this backhaul on power lines will only result in dissatisfied data customers and RF users alike. Anyone with carrier-current AM experience will attest to its fragility and susceptibility to interference. Even short-range carrier-current telephone/data extenders are far from perfect.

Please don't ruin the high-frequency bands!

Earl Arbuckle
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